

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 610

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10954

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IN, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. DURING COURSE OF AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY, LARGE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, IN ADDITION TO VOA AND JOINT COMMISSION (SEE SEPTELS), WERE COVERED. FOREIGN SECRETARY OBVIOUSLY TRIED TO DEVELOP A MIXTURE OF SWEET AND SOUR. THE RESULTING MEAL COULD NOT BE DESCRIBED AS A CULINARY DELIGHT. OTHER SUBJECTS FOLLOW:

A. HARCOS AND FLETCHER

FOREIGN SECRETARY OBVIOUSLY PLANNED TO TELL THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE. UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM, THE AMBASSADOR ALREADY HAD ALL THE INFORMATION ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD NOTHING TO ADD.

B. SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

FOREIGN SECRETARY MADE ANOTHER PITCH FOR USG SUPPORT FOR INDIA'S ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL. AMBASSADOR REITERATED USG POSITION.

C. INDIAN PRESS ATTACKS ON US

IN OBVIOUS REPLY TO EMBASSY ABOUT OCCASIONAL CONTIN-
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UING HOSTILE REMARKS IN INDIAN PRESS, FOREIGN SECRETARY SHOWED

AMBASSADOR LARGE NUMBER OF HOSTILE ARTICLES WHICH HAD BEEN STOPPED BY CENSORS. AMONG SUCH ITEMS WAS A LENGTHY ARTICLE IN NEW AGE WITH A LONG LIST OF ALLEGED CIA AGENTS IN THE EMBASSY.

D. PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

AMBASSADOR STATED THAT WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT, THERE WOULD BE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES IF THE PRESIDENT VISITED INDIA AT PRESENT. FOR EXAMPLE, LARGE GROUPS OF NEWSPAPERMEN ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT. WHAT WOULD THE GOI DO ABOUT THESE NEWSPAPERMEN, E.G., REFUSE THEIR ENTRY, CENSOR THEIR DESPATCHES. FOREIGN SECRETARY DID NOT REPLY BUT APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND.

E. EXPULSION OF US CORRESPONDENTS

THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT WE DID NOT APPRECIATE REMARKS BY MEA SPOKESMAN HAKSAR TO US CORRESPONDENTS TO EFFECT THAT GOI HAD BEEN INFORMALLY TOLD THAT USG DID NOT REALLY CARE WHETHER US CORRESPONDENTS WERE KICKED OUT OF THE COUNTRY. FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED HE WOULD TELL HAKSAR TO STOP MAKING SUCH STATEMENTS. AMBASSADOR BROUGHT UP UPI CASE AND NOTED UNFAIR NATURE GOI TREATMENT SINCE UPI HAD SIGNED STATEMENT. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGREED TO LOOK INTO MATTER.

F. NORTH KOREA

FOREIGN SECRETARY NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS CONTINUING TO ATTEMPT TO PLACE LARGE PROPAGANDA STATEMENTS IN INDIAN NEWSPAPERS PAYING FOR THEM AS ADVERTISEMENTS. SUCH ADS HAVE BEEN STOPPED.

G. WHEAT PURCHASES

FOREIGN SECRETARY APPEARED CONCERNED THAT THE USG MIGHT TUCKER PUT CEILING ON EXPORT OF WHEAT TO INDIA. AMBASSADOR STATED AUGUST 11 CROP REPORT WAS FAVORABLE BUT WHEAT AVAILABILITY WOULD DEPEND ON FAVORABLE WEATHER DURING REMAINDER OF AUGUST. THERE WAS PRESENTLY NO RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OR SALES TO INDIA. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT GOI INTENDED SHORTLY TO "INCREASE ITS REQUEST" FOR TIT I WHEAT. NO SPECIFIC FIGURES WERE MENTIONED. (IN RECENT MEETING IN MOF, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WAS TOLD THAT GOI HAD WORKED OUT NORTH VIET NAM PROBLEM AND HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE SO INFORMED LATER THIS WEEK. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED.)

H. MOSQUITO PROBLEM

FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID GOI WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT THAT POLITICAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF JOINT RESEARCH MUST BE MADE AT THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING AND THAT MOSQUITO TYPE INCIDENTS MUST NOT OCCUR AGAIN. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF THIS AGREEMENT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO NEED FOR A

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCIENCE SUBCOMMISSION. (ISSUE
OF HOW APPROPRIATE POLITICAL STATEMENT CAN BE DRAFTED
WAS LEFT OPEN. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP.)
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